

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 DLOS-04 OFA-01 EPA-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, UN, UR, UK, US

SUBJECT: UNGA DISARMAMENT: SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 258974 PARA 5

1. UK DEL NOV 5 CONVENED MEETING OF CO-DEPOSITARIES OF SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY TO CONSIDER HOW TO HANDLE TREATY REVIEW MATTERS AT CURRENT UNGA. DISCUSSION REVEALED BROAD AGREEMENT IN GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARD REV CON, INCLUDING VIEW OF ALL THREE CO-DEPOSITARIES THAT IDEALLY CONFERENCE SHOULD SIMPLY BE CANCELLED OR, IF THIS WERE NOT REALISTIC, AT LEAST POSTPONED. IT WAS AGREED TO INVITE ALL TREATY PARTIES TO MEET DURING CURRENT FIRST COMMITTEE DISARMAMENT DEBATE IN ORDER TO TAKE SOUNDINGS ON THESE ALTERNATIVES, RECOGNIZING, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PARTIES VERY PROBABLY WOULD OPPOSE EITHER OR BOTH.

2. CO-DEPOSITARIES READILY AGREED THAT BOTH REVCON, IF
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HELD, AND WHATEVER PREPARATORY ACTIVITY WAS DEEMED

NECESSARY, SHOULD BE SHORT AND AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION UK ASKED FOR VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PRO-CEDURAL RES NOTING THAT REVCON WAS DUE IN GENEVA IN 1977 AND ENDORSING PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE. US SAID WE WOULD FAVOR SUCH A RES.

3. SOVIETS QUERIED WHETHER, ASSUMING (AS THEY PREFERRED) THAT PREPARATORY MEETING COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL EARLY 1977 WITH REVCON ITSELF IN LATE SPRING, ANY RES AT ALL WAS NEEDED AT THIS UNGA SESSION. DISCUSSION FAILED TO RESOLVE THIS QUESTION. UK, WHICH HAD DISCUSSED REVCON WITH SECRETARIAT, NOTED THAT SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS HAD POINTED TO NEED FOR CONFIRMATION AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE OF PLANS TO HOLD CONFERENCE AND PREPARATORY MEETING.

4. GROUP DECIDED THAT UK WOULD CONSULT SECRETARIAT AGAIN ON QUESTION RAISED BY USSR AS WELL AS ON WHETHER UNGA RES WAS NEEDED TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR REVCON AND PREPARATORY ACTIVITY. CO-DEPOSITARIES WOULD THEN RECONVENE AND, ON BASIS OF UK'S ADVICE, SEEK TO CONCERT THEIR VIEWS BEFORE TREATY PARTIES WERE INVITED TO DISCUSS MATTER.
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